

HEALTH PROFESSIONS EDUCATION
PARTNERSHIPS ACT OF 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 1998

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 1754, the Health Professions Education Partnerships Act of 1998. This measure reauthorizes the health professions and nursing training and education programs contained within titles VII and VIII of the Public Health Service Act. S. 1754 is a bipartisan effort to strengthen these critical programs—which do so much to provide a workforce that is targeted to address the Nation's critical health care needs.

Among the programs reauthorized by this legislation are the: Minority Centers of Excellence Program; Exceptional Financial Need Scholarships; Faculty Loan Repayment Program; Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students and the Office of Minority Health at the Department of Health and Human Services. These and other critical programs provide valuable institutionally-based training opportunities for health professions students in primary care as well as individual grant and scholarship support for disadvantaged health professions students.

Mr. Speaker, while every racial and ethnic group experiences some health disparity, African Americans and other underserved Americans continue to suffer with disproportionately higher rates of death and disease. In recent years, we have seen unprecedented advances in biomedical research, the diagnosis of disease and the delivery of health care services. However, the African American community and other communities of color have not fully nor equally benefited from these new discoveries. In fact, African Americans and other minorities continue to face historical barriers to good health, including the lack of access to quality health care.

More than a decade after the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services' 1985 Task Force Report on Black and Minority Health, African Americans continue to: suffer with disproportionate rates of cancer, cardiovascular disease, hypertension, stroke and HIV/AIDS; experience a rate of infant mortality that is twice that of whites; live shorter lives than the general population and endure 70,000 excess deaths every year. This health crisis is further exacerbated by the severe underrepresentation of minorities in the health professions, the fact that there has been very little growth in the number of minority medical school matriculants and by current efforts to roll back affirmative action.

While recent reports predict a general oversupply of physicians and other health care providers, this is not the case where minority health care professionals are concerned. For example, while African Americans and Hispanic Americans comprise 13 percent and 11 percent of the United States population, they represent only 3.2 percent and 4.4 percent of the Nation's practicing physicians. This is significant because studies show that minority health professionals are more likely to serve in underserved communities, providing a disproportionate amount of care to the most vulnerable among us—the poor and the underserved.

It is for these reasons that I urge my colleagues to support S. 1754. The Health Professions Education Partnerships Act health is an absolutely essential link to helping the Nation to effectively address the shocking disparities in the status of minority health.

Vote "yes" on S. 1754.

A TRIBUTE TO THOMAS
SHARRARD—1998 INSTITUTE FOR
HUMAN RELATIONS AWARD WINNER**HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 1998

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Thomas E. Sharrard, this year's recipient of the American Jewish Committee's Institute for Human Relations Award.

The American Jewish Committee, which was formed in 1906, promotes research and programs which combat all forms of bigotry and discrimination. The group also works to promote human rights and advocates public policy positions rooted in American democratic values.

The Institute for Human Relations Award is being given to Tom Sharrard in recognition of his outstanding contributions to our community. Tom is probably best known as the hard working and innovative president of Time Warner Cable's Milwaukee Division. But equally impressive are his civic and philanthropic accomplishments and activities.

Despite his busy schedule, Tom finds time to be involved with a number of community organizations, such as the Greater Milwaukee Committee, the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Milwaukee, the Milwaukee Public Library Foundation, and the Betty Brinn Childrens Museum. He also serves on the advisory committee for the Artist Series at the Pabst and the Alliance for Future Transit, and is a member of both the Wisconsin Cable Association and the National Cable Television Association.

In the true spirit of the Institute for Human Relations Award, Tom Sharrard has regularly crusaded for opportunities for women and other under-represented groups in the cable television industry. In fact, Tom was recently awarded the Wisconsin Governor's Glass Ceiling Award, which recognizes efforts to achieve equity and fairness in the workplace.

And so it is with great pleasure that I join with Tom Sharrard's many business associates, family and friends in congratulating him on receiving the 1998 Institute for Human Relations Award, deserved honor. May our community continue to reap the benefits of Tom's compassion and commitment for many years to come.

TRIBUTE TO RONALD L.
SCHEINMAN**HON. BRAD SHERMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 1998

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Ronald L. Scheinman, Esq. for his service as Chairman of the Board of

the Los Angeles Jewish Home for the Aging for the past two years. President Kennedy said, "Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future." During his tenure, Ron has worked diligently with the Board of Directors and senior managers to reshape the Jewish Home to prepare it to meet the many challenges facing the health care industry.

Under Ron's leadership, they conducted and completed a Capital Campaign Planning and Feasibility Study and implemented a strategic planning process to determine the future development of the Jewish Home. He recruited a new development director to enhance the organization's fundraising abilities. He has organizationally streamlined the Jewish Home by restructuring the Board of Directors, reducing their size, reducing the size of the executive committee and revising their bylaws. These important implementations have improved the Jewish Home's overall efficiency and effectiveness.

Ronald Scheinman's vision for the future of the Jewish Home for the Aging has transformed the Home into a present-day reality that is providing a very important service to many of Los Angeles' Jewish senior citizens. Ron has helped to ensure that the Home will continue to provide quality care to a growing and often neglected portion of our population.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Mr. Ronald L. Scheinman, Esq. for his service to the Jewish Community as Chairman of the Board of the Los Angeles Jewish Home for the Aging.

CONGRESSMAN CHARLES DIGGS
JR.: A LEADER IN THE STRUGGLE
FOR JUSTICE**HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 15, 1998

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, my family and I were saddened to learn of the death of my longtime friend and former colleague, Congressman Charles Diggs Jr., the first African American elected to Congress from Michigan. Congressman Diggs paved the way for an entire generation of African American political leaders, not just in his home state, but throughout the nation. When I first arrived in Washington in 1965, Congressman Diggs had been there 10 years and had earned a well deserved reputation as a fearless fighter for justice for poor and oppressed people. In my early days in Congress, he helped me find my way through the maze of Washington politics. I knew I could rely on him for sound advice.

Congressman Diggs was not afraid to speak the truth. During his tenure in Congress, his was a resounding voice for millions of African Americans whose words were muted and whose dreams were bruised by the cruel forces of discrimination and intimidation. In matters of international affairs, he was the first member of Congress to promote Africa as a key part of the U.S. foreign agenda, and he was chair of the House Subcommittee on African Affairs. He was also a founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus, as was I.

For Detroiters, the name Diggs has a particular resonance. Congressman Diggs' parents were community activists who operated a